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12 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Duckett

25X1A 1. I believe the level of the awards recommended for [] will have very tough sledding in the HMAB. Although the write up is fairly extensive, there remains the question of the precise benefit of their work to the Agency rather than, for example, to technology in general. This is usually an area in which questions are asked when awards of either the Distinguished Intelligence Medal or the Medal of Merit are proposed. So far Distinguished Intelligence Medals have been awarded to John Parangosky, Jim Cunningham, Ed Giller, and Bud Wheelon. Medals of Merit have gone to people like [] for example.

25X1A 2. Contrast may well be drawn between this general effort and the specific work of [] which will be well understood by the Board, for which the Medal of Merit is proposed. Also the work of [] et al and the Medal of Merit awards there may be considered.

25X1A 3. In addition to the HMAB problems, Directorate people who have received Certificates of Distinction and Medals of Merit for concrete accomplishments may feel that they have been underrecognized. I recommend the recommended award for [] be changed to the Intelligence Medal of Merit rather than Distinguished Intelligence Medal, but if you wish to proceed with the original recommendation I can make strong arguments based on your overview of the R&D programs, and may be able to obtain a favorable Board reaction in this way rather than trying to rely solely upon the content of the recommendations.

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